

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO OSWALD'S DEATH

J. R. LEAVELLE - #736

I arrived Sunday morning, November 24, 1963 about 8:00 am. We received word from Mr. Perry, Security Officer of the Statler-Hilton that they had a man check in who said he represented a munition company out of California. I went to the hotel in company with Det. C. N. Dhority and Mr. C. W. Brown. We talked with Robert W. Parker, 544 North Cypress, Orange, California. We satisfied ourselves he was O. K. and returned to the office.

At 9:30 am I was instructed, along with Det. L. C. Graves and Det. C. N. Dhority to go up in the jail and get Lee Oswald. I went to his cell and put the handcuff on him with his hands in front of him.

We returned to Captain Fritz's office where Captain Fritz, Mr. Sorrelle and Mr. Thomas Kelly of the Secret Service questioned Oswald. Also in the room were Detectives L. D. Montgomery, L. C. Graves, C. N. Dhority and Inspector Holmes of the Post Office Department and myself.

Shortly after 11:00 am we began the transfer. Chief Curry had come to Captain Fritz's office. I had made a suggestion earlier to double cross the press and take Oswald out on the first floor via the Main Street door, leaving the press waiting in the basement and on Commerce Street.

Also it was suggested to go out the Main Street ramp and west on Main Street. These suggestions were turned down by Chief Curry who stated that we had better go ahead with the transfer as planned, since he had given his word on it.

Approximately 11:15 am we left the third floor office with Oswald handcuffed to my left arm with Det. L. C. Graves holding to Oswald's left arm, preceded to the jail elevator by Captain Fritz, Lt. Swain, Detective L. D. Montgomery. We reached the basement jail office with officers in front we headed to the automobile ramp just outside the jail office door. We hesitated just inside the jail door,

then was given the all clear sign. We walked out and had just reached the ramp where the car we were to ride in was being backed into position by Detective Dhority when out of the mass of humanity composed of all the news media, which had surged forward to within six or seven feet of us, came the figure of a man with a gun in hand. He took two quick steps and double actioned a .38 revolver point blank at Oswald. I jerked back on Oswald, at the same time reaching out and catching Jack Ruby on the left shoulder, shoving back and down on him, bringing myself between Ruby and Oswald. I could see Det. Graves had Ruby's gun hand and gun in his hands. I turned my attention to Oswald and with the help of Det. Combest we took Oswald back into the jail office and laid him down. Handcuffs were removed and the city hall doctor, Dr. Bieberdorf was summoned. We also called O'Neal ambulance. Oswald was placed in the ambulance and rushed to Parkland Hospital. In the ambulance besides the crew was Dr. Bieberdorf, Det. L. C. Graves, Det. C. N. Dhority and myself.

He was rushed to surgery where he expired at 1:07 pm, November 24, 1963, pronounced by Dr. Tom Shires. Judge Pierce McBride was summoned. I gave him all the information needed to request an autopsy. When all necessary reports were made, I returned to the city hall where I made the offense report on Lee Harvey Oswald.